AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pondicherry requested the Central Government for setting up of gas based power plant at Karaikal which is very near to Narimanam area of Tamil Nadu wherein large reserves of natural gas is available?

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has accepted the proposal of the State Government for setting up of gas based power plant in Karaikal region of Union Territory of Pondicherry; and

(c) if so, what is the total estimate of the project and by when it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The possibility of supply of gas for this purpose is being examined.

Telecommunication system in Calicut

1379. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding the mal-functioning of the telecommunication system in Calicut city;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the functioning of the telecommunication system in Calicut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received regarding poor functioning of telephone system and excess metering from public of Calicut. Services were affected due to agitation by a section of employees.

(c) As the services deteriorated action was initiated against a selected number of agitating staff and maintenance efforts have increased. The situation is almost normal at present. One senior officer was deputed to Calicut to hear the complaints. He also met the mayor and persons from public bodies of Calicut. Actions are being taken to deal with excess metering complaints expeditiously.

दूसरा सिलेंडर दिये जाने हेतु निर्देश

1380. **श्री सुशील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड सांसदों तथा महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तियों की सिफारिशों पर प्राथमिकता के आधार पर गैस कनेक्शन देते समय दूसरा सिलेंडर दिये जाने के निर्देश जारी नहीं कर रहा है जबकि 1986-87 में आवेदनकर्त्ता डी०बी०सी० की मोहर लगवाकर तुरन्त ही दूसरा सिलेंडर प्राप्त कर सकते थे;

(ख) यदि भाग (क) का उत्तर "हां" में है, तो क्या सरकार सिफारिशी वाउचरों पर इस सुविधा हेतु निर्देश जारी करने का विचार रखती है ताकि महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तियों के आवेदकों तथा सिफारिशी प्राथमिकता प्राप्त वाउचरों को उक्त सुविधा प्राप्त हो सके; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री ब्रह्म दत्त) : (क) से (ग) संसद सदस्यों/विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों की सिफारिशों पर वरीयता के आधार पर एल०पी०जी० के कनैक्शन जारी करने के आदेश के अनुसार इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन द्वारा दिये जाते हैं। यदि जारी

करने के आदेश में डी०बी०सी० का भी जिक्र होता है तो दूसरा सिलिंडर दिया जाता है । यदि जारी करने के आदेश में केवल एक सिलिंडर के लिय कहा जाता है तो भी अनुरोध किये जाने पर दूसरा सिलिंडर दिया जाता है बशर्ते कि उपभोक्ता सुविधा उपलब्ध हो ।

Hike in caustic soda price

1381. DR. NAREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp hike in caustic soda price;

(b) if so, whether it will upset the economy of paper industry; and

(c) if so, what are the measures proposed to check this price hike?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) As per available information, there has been an increase in the ex-factory price of Caustic Soda by Rs. 200|- per tonne effective from 1-9-1988. This increase in price constitutes only 3.4 per cent increase in the ex-factory price. As the increase in price is not very high, it will not upset the economy of the paper industry.

Categorisation of Polymix-in-B-Sulphate

1382. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3749 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are hardly 10 packs of formulations based on Polymixin-B-Sulphate, providone Inoine and Flucinolone Acetonide;

(b) when were the prices of these formulations fixed under DPCO, 1979, what were the prices fixed, what is the present price of each and what is the percentage increase in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that the import of Polymixin-B-Sulphate and Flucinolone Acetonide are more than Rs. 50 lacs each per annum at landed cost; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for keeping these drugs out of price control as none of the exclusion criteria is fulfilled by any of these drugs?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) Various manufacturers are marketing formulations based on referred drugs.

(c) and (d) The referred drugs were excluded from price control under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987, as recommended by Kelkar Committee.

Import price of Rifampicin

1383. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question 3296 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd August, 1988 and state:

(a) what are the basis on which the Ministry came to the conclusion that no instance of over invoicing in respect of Rifampicin has come to the notice of Government;

(b) when was the matter investigated and what are the details of findings;

(c) whether it is a fact that purchases of intermediates are made by the producers of Rifampicin from shippers;

(d) if so, what are the details of imports of intermediates during the last two years alongwith the CIF price and source of import;

(e) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is aware of import prices of